Gallatin County Attorney Marty Lambert, County Attorney



January 17, 2007

House Judiciary Committee Montana State Capitol

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee:

Re: HB 250

It is most appropriate that the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) or Department of Justice take responsibility for the filing and prosecution of child abuse and neglect cases. HB 250 will mandate that DPHHS and/or the Attorney General handle these cases.

I recognize the importance of this work, but at present my criminal division is responsible for approximately 2,200 cases a year. My deputies and I simply do not have the time to do legal work that should be handled by State agencies.

Please support HB 250. Thank you for reading about my concerns, and if you have questions please call me or e-mail me at marty.lambert@gallatin.mt.gov.

Marty Lambert County Attorney

Cc: Gallatin County Commissioners Mike Harris